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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEM K OFFICE (National Phase of International App.: PCT/JP03/13755, WO 04/038840 A1)

In re the

application of: Sugiura, Seiji, et al.

International Application No.: PCT/JP03/13755

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Attorney Docket No.: TOW-108US

Mail Stop PCT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Applicants and their Attorney are aware of the following publications and information, listed on the attached PTO Form SB-08, and in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97 hereby submit these publications for the Examiner's consideration.

References A1, and A3-A6 were cited in an International Search Report in the corresponding International Patent Application PCT/JP2003/013755. Since the foregoing publications and search report have previously been transmitted to all the designated Offices by the International Bureau, Applicants do not enclose copies of those publications herewith. A PTO Form SB-08 also accompanies this statement.



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This statement is not to be interpreted as a representation that the cited publications are material, that an exhaustive search has been conducted, or that no other relevant information exists. Nor shall the citation of any publication herein be construed *per se* as a representation that such publication is prior art. Moreover, Applicants understand that the Examiner will make an independent evaluation of the cited publications.

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(b)(1), no additional costs are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, please charge any necessary fees in connection with the enclosed statement to our Deposit Order Account No. 12-0080.

Respectfully submitted, LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP

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Date: 27 April 2005

AAL/les Enclosures



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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO				Complete if Known		
		. •		Application Number	Not Yet Assigned 1535	
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STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				First Named Inventor	Sugiura, Seiji	
				Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned	
(Use as many sheets as necessary)				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	TOW-108US	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (<i>if known</i>)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	A1	2002/0055031 A1	05-09-2002	Fujii, <i>et al.</i>	

		FOREI	GN PATENT	DOCUMENTS		
Examiner Initials*	Cite	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
	No.1	Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				T⁵
***************************************	A2	JP 08-22237	08-30-1996	Aisin AW Co. Ltd.		
	A3	WO 00/31815 A1	06-02-2000	Institute of Gas Technology		
	A4	JP 2000-164230	06-16-2000	Aisin Seiki Co. Ltd.		
	A5	JP 2000-323149	11-24-2000	Mitsubishi Heavy Ind. Ltd.		
	A6	JP 2001-118588	04-27-2001	Fuji Electric Co. Ltd.		
	A7	JP 2002-075395	03-15-2002	Toyota Motor Corp.		

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